Section VI: Community Services and Information

Are online community services and information--including government, schools, and libraries--available?   In many communities, information technology may be an effective and efficient way to improve access to health care.

Community services and information is a very broad area and, accordingly, has been divided into six subsections:

- Public Library Services
- Health Care
- Education
- Local Government Services
- Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement and Emergency Services
- Non-profits, Arts, Culture, and History

Public Library Services

A. This section should be initially completed by an individual or group of individuals designated by the information technology committee to be the section leader(s).

Public library factors to assess:	yes	no	future actions
Does the public library have an automated catalog and circulation system?	☐	☐	
Does the public library have online and/or CD-ROM reference tools available to its patrons?	☐	☐	
Is the public library networked with state and regional library systems?	☐	☐	
Is the public library networked with other local libraries to access holdings and other resources?	☐	☐	
Does the public library have a Web site to provide information and linkages to Internet resources?	☐	☐	
Can patrons search the library catalog and request renewals or inter-library loans from the library's Web site?	☐	☐	

B. This section should be initially completed by an individual or group of individuals designated by the information technology committee to be the section leader(s).

On a scale of 1 to 4, evaluate your public libraries e-readiness:

1   The library catalog and circulation system is not automated and no public access terminals are available.

2   The library catalog and circulation system is automated and a few public access terminals are available.

3   The library catalog is available online. Sufficient public access terminals are available to meet public demand.

4   The library actively promotes information technology through classes and providing individual assistance.   Technology is effectively used to make resources more accessible to patrons and to improve efficiency.

What are our strengths in the area of public library e-readiness?

What resources and assets are available in the community to address public library e-readiness?   What resources and assets are available regionally or in the state?

The Nebraska Library Commission (www.nlc.state.ne.us) and the regional library systems (www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/) may be able to provide assistance.

Webjunction (www.webjunction.org) is a great resource on technology use in libraries.

What are some ways in which public library e-readiness could be strengthened?

Does a more thorough assessment of this area need to be made?   Yes   No

C. These questions should be discussed and answered by the entire information technology committee or have community members provide input on these questions at a community forum.

In two to five years, how would you like your community to score in this area?

1   The library catalog and circulation system is not automated and no public access terminals are available.

2   The library catalog and circulation system is automated and a few public access terminals are available.

3   The library catalog is available online. Sufficient public access terminals are available to meet public demand.

4   The library actively promotes information technology through classes and providing individual assistance.   Technology is effectively used to make resources more accessible to patrons and to improve efficiency

How would you prioritize public library e-readiness?

1   Low priority
2   Medium priority
3   High priority
4   Highest priority